



# Williamsburg County Government

## In Touch



201 West Main Street  
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Kingstree, SC 29556  
843.355.9321

### Voters will Decide on Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST)



The commission members pictured above from left to right were: Mr. Bobby Johnson, Vice Chairperson, Stan Williamson, Chairperson, Mr. Curtis Graham, Mrs. Pernerva Thomas, Mr. Murrie Beaufort, Jr., and Mr. Ed Cunningham

When Williamsburg County voters go to the polls on **November 8, 2016** (Presidential General Election), they will be asked to decide if a 1 cents sales tax will be implemented to help fund specific capital projects for the county and its municipalities.

County Council voted on August 8, 2016 to accept the listing of Capital Sales Tax projects and ballot question from the CPST commission to be placed on the ballot in the form of a countywide referendum. The commission was established by County Council on June 21, 2016 in accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 4-10-320. The six-member CPST commission representing all areas of the county was charged with accepting project proposals for funding of capital projects within the county and municipalities.

The CPST commission held public meetings throughout various communities of Williamsburg County to obtain public input regarding the projects to be considered by the CPST commission. The CPST commission used the information

received from the public, county, and municipalities to form a project list in prioritized order and ballot question to include on the referendum on November 8, 2016. By state law, CPST funds must be used to complete projects selected by the CPST commission and outlined in the referendum. Williamsburg County Council cannot change the ballot question formed by the CPST Commission and is committed to reporting the progress of CPST projects to county residents if the CPST is approved. The CPST will eliminate the need for the county and municipalities to increase property taxes to support CPST projects.

All CPST will be paid by the residents and non-residents when they make purchases in the county. Exempted items from the CPST are groceries, gasoline, residential electric bill, water bills, medicine, and taxes paid by citizens eighty five years old and older.

If approved on November 8, 2016, the 1 cent Capital Pro-

ject Sales Tax will be collected beginning May, 2017 and end on April 30, 2025. State law requires that the capital projects sales tax can not exceed the eight year term without another referendum. **It is estimated that the tax will generate at least \$16.7 million during the eight years, and may possibly exceed \$21 million.**

The CPST will replace an outdated public safety radio system which is mandated by the Federal Government and is critical to protecting the safety of our citizens and will also provide you with enhanced and improved, fire, law enforcement, and EMS communications in the county. The CPST would be used to construct a new headquarter for rural fire and EMS and substations throughout the county. County residents would see the biggest direct financial return from the CPST through lower home insurance rates because they would live within five road miles of fire station services. A portion of the tax will also be used to construct and renovate buildings to house municipal police and fire in the Town of Kingstree, Town of Greeleyville, Town of Hemingway and the South Lynches Fire District that serves a portion of Williamsburg County. The Town of Lane and Stuckey will get new community buildings. Additionally, the Town of Stuckey will acquire \$154,000 in funding for their Henry Town Water Project Extension.

**Please see Page 4 for Dates on Community Educational Meetings for the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST).**

Issue 14

October 2016

### Special points of interest:

- FAQ's-Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST)
- Eight Days of Hope comes to Williamsburg County
- Back-to-School Bash marked a SUCCESS!
- Palmetto Pride grant received for Brunson and Muddy Creek Communities
- Probate Court Summer Interns-Job Well Done

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**July 2016 - September 2016**

**Clerk of Court**  
Karen Boyd

**Detention**  
Tabashia Bradley  
Frederick Cooper  
Terrence Cooper  
William Graham  
Panache Lowery  
Nelson McBride  
Gemayle Simon

**Public Works**  
Daniel McKenzie  
James Skvarek

**Recreation**  
Junius Porter

**Tax Assessor**  
Ava Rogers

**Transit**  
Catherine Zarella



**This October Edition is dedicated to Breast Cancer Awareness Month.**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)  
Capital Project Sales Tax**

On Tuesday, **November 8th**, Voters in Williamsburg County will vote on a 1 cent sales tax for much needed capital projects in the county and municipalities. Many people have questions about the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) and we want to provide them with factual information.

**Question:** Why should we trust that this money will not be spent on other projects?

**Answer:** By State law, the money raised can only be spent on the projects approved by the voters. The South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR) will receive and disburse these funds to the county. The SCDOR will be the oversight agency to ensure that these funds are spent as approved by the voters.

**Question:** Why do we have to vote on the 1 cent capital project sales tax?

**Answer:** By State law, citizens must have a voice in this matter. This is a great way to fund capital projects that will greatly improve our county and municipalities without increasing property taxes.

**Question:** Will the 1 cent sales tax be collected after the eight year period?

**Answer:** State law limits the collection of the CPST to not exceed eight years. Voters will have to approve a new referendum after the eight years for another capital project sale tax.

**Question:** Why don't we have any roads projects on the list?

**Answer:** The list was prepared by six appointed members of the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission after holding many public hearings throughout the county for public input. No road projects were submitted to the Commission for consideration

and therefore could not be included on the list.

**Question:** Why didn't we have a commission member from each of the county's seven single member districts?

**Answer:** The six appointed members of the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) were appointed in accordance with the process outlined in South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 4-10-320. The six members of the commission are statutorily required to represent all the municipalities and geographic areas of the county.

**Question:** Can the money be spent on any items that anyone wants to spend it on?

**Answer:** No! According to South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 4-10-330 the money can only be spent on projects that meet the criteria and were approved by the voters.

**HOPE for Williamsburg County**

Williamsburg County is very thankful to be welcoming the Eight Days of Hope Organization to our County in October.

Pictured are Volunteers from Wisconsin along with County Supervisor Stanley S. Pasley.

These Volunteers helped make appointments for flood assessments for residences, still needing repairs, not only in Williamsburg County but Georgetown County also.

Eight Days of Hope will be in the our County from Oct 08, 2016 -



Oct 15, 2016 helping families affected by the 2015 Carolina Flood, rebuild their homes for FREE.

If you would like additional information on this project or would like to donate or volunteer, please visit their website @ [www.eightdaysofhope.com](http://www.eightdaysofhope.com).

**Back-to-School Bash**

Bakery, Transit, HopeHealth, Palmetto Project, First Steps, The Development Board and the Clerk of Court. Thank you to our bronze sponsors: County Council, Farmers Telephone, Williamsburg County Recreation Department and the Clerk of Court.

Sabb, Attorney JoeAnn Calvy, and Carolina Travel & Tours.

We thank all of our donors who supplied school supplies: E-911, Skye's, Robert Welch, Stephanie Pendergrass, and Drug and Alcohol.

**Thank you all once again for helping to make this event a huge success!**

**A Message from Our Clerk, Sharon W. Stagers:**

Thank you all for your support and donations for our **Annual Back-to-School Bash**. The event was a success, as always.

A special thank you is extended to all of our businesses that setup tables: County Council, Connie's

**Gold Sponsors:** Senator Ronnie



More than **500 students** from around the county were provided with backpacks, school supplies, free food, games and 20 gift card drawings.

## People Over Politics

I often take the opportunity in this column to feature the many departments and offices of Williamsburg County Government that provide needed services to the citizens of Williamsburg County. There is perhaps no office more critical to the welfare of our citizens than the Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center.

**It is the mission of the Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office to protect the lives and property of Williamsburg County citizens, to reduce crime, and to build partnerships with communities.** The duty of the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center personnel, is to do this with integrity, honor, and fairness, while at all times conducting themselves with the highest ethical standards in order to maintain the public trust. The Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office has forty-three personnel consisting of sworn deputies and administrative assistants and the Williamsburg County Detention Center has forty-one correctional officers responsible for the care, and safe keeping of inmates until their release.

Geographically, Williamsburg County is the sixth largest county in the State of South Carolina out of a total of forty-six counties. The Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office has the responsibility for patrolling a total of 937 squares miles. Sheriff's Deputies serve the total population of

34,423 citizens within the county.

**The Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office is made up of six divisions that serve the public.**

**Patrol Division** - Answers 911 calls for service, and is responsible for initial incident reports, and preliminary investigations.

**Civil Process** - Serves court documents and is responsible for family court related matters.

**Narcotics Division** - Investigates drug, alcohol, and vice related activities.

**Criminal Investigation** - Investigates murders, criminal sexual assaults, robberies, physical assaults, safe keeping of evidence, and property crimes.

**Transportation Division** - Is responsible for transporting inmates to, and from doctors and other appointments to include scheduled court hearings.

**Victim Advocate** - Is trained to support victims of violent crimes. The advocate offers victims information, emotional support, and help finding resources, and filling out paperwork. The Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office also maintains a record of all registered sex offenders within the county.

The newest service provided by the Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office is Community Awareness. The **Public Information Officer (PIO)** provides important, need to know infor-

mation concerning public safety. The PIO also handles all media related matters and public relations for the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center. A nearly 10 year veteran with the Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office, Alex Edwards became the first, PIO in August of 2015.

In Williamsburg County the Sheriff is an elected official, who is responsible for keeping the peace, and is the top-ranking law enforcement officer within the county. Our current Sheriff, Dudley Musier, is a 28 year veteran of the South Carolina State Highway Patrol who retired as a Sergeant from this organization. He joined the Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office in May of 2010 as the Chief Deputy. In 2013, he was elected as Sheriff, to fill the unexpired term of our previous Sheriff, Michael Johnson. Sheriff Musier recently lost his Primary bid to continue in the office for another term and will leave the office in January of 2017.

I and the Williamsburg County Council would like to thank Sheriff Musier for his years of dedicated service. We wish him the best in his future endeavors. His commitment was one that demonstrates that, Williamsburg County simply works better when our federal, state and local government, county council, elected officials, staff and everyday citizens get involved and put **"People Over Politics"** to make our county better.



**STANLEY S. PASLEY**

**County Supervisor and Chairman of County Council**



At a July Council Meeting, a check was presented from Lou Easterling, Palmetto Pride to Councilwoman Jeanie Brown Burrows and the Brunson and Muddy Creek communities for a job well done in keeping Williamsburg County Beautiful.

**Thanks to the Volunteers from both the Brunson and Muddy Creek Communities for their hard work and dedication.**

**Pictured:** Mr. Herman Lewis, Muddy Creek, Hemingway, SC, Mr. Andrea Dorsey, Recreation Director Supervisor Stanley S. Pasley, Mrs. Lou Easterling, Mrs. Theresa Graham, Brunson Cross Road Area, Hemingway, SC, Councilwoman Jeanie Brown-Burrows, Mr. Randolph Johnson, Brunson Cross Road Area, Hemingway, SC, and Mr. Joe Wilson, Jr. Brunson Crossroads Area, Hemingway, SC.

## County Council Spotlight

**District 1—Jeanie Brown Burrows District 2—W. B. Wilson, District 3—Harry Darby, District 4—Eddie Woods, Jr., District 5—Andy McKnight, Sr., District 6—Sam Floyd, District 7—Franklin Fulmore**

Members of County Council along with Clerk of Court Sharon Stagers, Probate Judge Betty Matthews, Tax Collector, Norma Cyrus and Treasurer, Kimber Cooper at the 49<sup>th</sup> annual conference General Session South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) in Hilton Head, SC. The SCAC provides train-



ing, legislative reporting and assists in the updating of issues that may be affecting our counties and is

open for County Government officials of South Carolina to attend.

Coming up.....

October 11th-CPST Meeting  
Lane Recreation Center  
102 Broomstraw Road  
Lane, SC (6-8 pm)

October 11th-CPST Meeting  
Trio Fire Station #11  
105 Front Street  
Salters, SC (6-8 pm)

October 13th-CPST Meeting  
St. Lawrence Community Center  
5321 US Highway 521  
Salters, SC (6-8 pm)

October 13th-CPST Meeting  
Bloomingvale Fire Station #12  
8296 Thurgood Marshall Highway  
Andrews, SC (6-8 pm)

October 17th- CPST Meeting  
Pearl Whack Center  
81 Society Street  
Greeleyville, SC (6-8 pm)

October 17th- CPST Meeting  
South Lynches Fire Station  
3193 N. Williamsburg County Highway  
Cades, SC (6-8 pm)

October 20th-CPST Meeting  
Central Fire Station #10  
893 F. Guerry Road  
Kingstree, SC (6-8 pm)

October 25th-CPST Meeting  
Williamsburg County Recovery Center  
2086 Thurgood Marshall Highway  
Kingstree, SC (6-8 pm)

November 2nd-CPST Meeting  
JJ Mitchum Center  
2233 Hemingway Highway  
Hemingway, SC (6-8 pm)

November 8th- Election Day  
**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!**

November 11th  
Veterans Day  
County Offices Closed

November 12th  
Veterans Day Parade  
10:00 AM  
Main Street, Kingstree, SC

November 12th  
Veterans Day Program  
11:00 AM  
Alex Chatman Complex Auditorium  
Kingstree, SC

November 24th and 25th  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
County Offices Closed

December 25th  
Christmas  
County Offices Closed  
(the County will also be closed 2 days  
around the 25th, subject to approval)

Employee of the Month (EOM)

July 2016 EOM

**Brittany W. Pressley**  
Treasurer

Along with Willette Thompson,  
Deputy Treasurer, and  
Supervisor Stanley S. Pasley



August 2016 EOM

**Eric B. Lewis**  
Fire Department  
Along with Supervisor  
Stanley S. Pasley



September 2016 EOM

**Naomi R. Dorsey**  
Supervisor's Office  
Along with Director of Finance,  
Walt Ackerman, Supervisor  
Stanley S. Pasley and  
County Council  
PHOTO BY Dianne Owens



Probate Court Interns

Probate Judge Betty Matthews and her office, celebrated with her Summer Interns **Braxton McIntosh, Latia Harvin and Karla Fulmore** on a job **WELL DONE** this 2016 Summer.

**Latia Harvin** of Lane – (Senior @ C. E. Murray High School)

**Karla Fulmore** of Hemingway – (Upward Bound Student)

(not pictured: **Karla Fulmore**)

**Braxton McIntosh** of Lake City – ( 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Student @ Coastal Carolina University)



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